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National celebrations come to a close with an impassioned address by PM Mike Eman



For Donna and Jim, a visit to Aruba is not complete without attending March 18 festivities



Over the years, The Morning News has annually covered the official March 18 celebration and parade as part of their coverage of island events. Always standing out from the crowd was an attractive lady, obviously a tourist, who proudly work Aruba's colors, obviously taking great delight in the events and the design of the island's flag.

We just couldn't resist, after several years in a row, approaching this lady, Donna Parks, and her companion, Jim Claytor in 2012, when they were again spied avidly following the celebration and parade. It is twelve years now that we have been vacation-

ing for at least a month on Aruba during March," explained the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania couple.

"Fortunately, we get to enjoy the island traditions surrounding their national day, which we find inspiring. Our leaders could definitely learn something from Aruba. We may have our Independence Day celebrations in our individual towns back home, but still, they never quite match the sincere fervor we see here. There is just something in the air that touches the heart."

This year again, the Donna and Jim were in place early on Monday morning to observe the official event, as

island dignitaries gathered before Aruba's government offices, ending with a parade of island scouts, various sporting clubs, and the police and local armed forces, such as Arubamil, the Aruba Militia.

"It is always interesting and fun," observed Donna and Jim. "We also love attending Carnival events if they are taking place while we are here. There is so much more to enjoy about Aruba than just the beaches and sea. We always feel so welcomed by Arubans when we come to these events. It is a wonderful opportunity to truly enjoy their sincere hospitality."

By Rosalie Klein

The Aruba State of the Union Address by PM Mike Eman

Three days of festivities surrounded the 2013 observance of Aruba's National Day, "Dia di Himno Y Bandera" (Anthem and Flag Day.) Four, if counting in the gala opening of the San Nicolas Water Tower on Friday evening, March 15.

The official day, March 18, was marked by the traditional "State of the Union" address by the Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman, in front of visiting and local dignitaries at the government offices on Monday morning, March 18.

This year, Aruba welcomed the Governors of Curacao and San Maarten, Adele van der Pluijn-Vrede and Eugene Holiday for the official ceremony,

as well as the Prime Minister of Curacao, Daniel Hodge. The highlight of the ritual protocol event was a fiery, impassioned speech by Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman, something of a departure from his usual measured manner.

PM Eman had introduced his concept of "Bon Trabao" (Good Work!) during the official opening of the Plaza Turismo in Oranjestad the morning before. Then, he had applauded his cabinet on their steadfast dedication to envisioning projects to advance and enhance island life, and staying the course to see them completed.

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An interesting new exhibit seasons a visit to San Nicolas



San Nicolas, the city that dominates Aruba's eastern end,

welcomed two new sights to enhance a tourist's day trip to "Sunrise City." On the eve of the holiday weekend, the renovated Watertoren was unveiled, a landmark building from the 1930's and the day before that, the San Nicolas Community Museum opened its doors.



Head of the project, Zahira Zaandam, admits the exhibit is still "a work in progress," meant to eventually integrate artifacts and items from the San Nicolas community, presenting a tableau of colonial and 20th century society in the area.

What is presently on display was acquired from the Odor Family Foundation, which maintained a remarkable collection of antiques, art and island and global artifacts in the family home, which was the Aruba Antiquities Museum. This collection was rarely on view to the public, only by appointment or on a national holiday.

The government has arranged to use various items from this extensive collection in presenting a charming picture of past island society. It will be accented with old photos and artifacts of the San Nicolas community, with regularly changing exhibits dedicated to outstanding community members and personalities, such as singer and composer Lord Cobashi, a San Nicolas and Carnival icon, which is currently on display.

Museum hours are daily, Tuesday through Sunday. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, the exhibit is open to the public from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. On Thursdays it is open only the afternoon, from 2:00 until 9:00 PM, so visitors to the weekly Carubbian Festival may visit. Sundays it is open from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. During this first month, entrance is free; after mid-April the fee will be \$2. It is closed on Monday.

Roy Feliciano, a member of the Odor family, has been working with the collection for some years and is the resident tour guide, ready to provide lively commentary on some of the objects. Located just off the main street of San Nicolas, directly behind the CMB Bank across from the main bus terminal, The San Nicolas Community Museum can provide some "extra spice" to a visit to Baby Beach and its environs.

By: Rosalie Klein

'Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds' celebrate with foundations



Minister Hooyboer-winklaar with Michelle Capriles

Just recently Aruba was host to the general board of the 'Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds' of the Dutch Caribbean. A special gathering was organized at the Fort Zoutman to meet the board and welcome the new President, Michelle Capriles. They also used the occasion to bid farewell to outgoing President and Governor of Curacao, Mr. Fritz Goedgedrag, who is now residing on Aruba after re-

tiring from office.

Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, during the event shared with the group. She said that it is important for the government to have these types of foundations assisting the government financially and offering technical assistance for projects in our community and particularly on social and culture areas. According to Hooyboer-Winklaar, the government alone cannot achieve this.

Vice-President of the 'Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds' of the Dutch Caribbean, Alice Van Romondt, informed the gathering that for the occasion they produced a DVD of some of the projects that 'Prins Bernhard Fonds' supported. Several foundations, whose projects were subsidized over the past years by the 'Prins Bernhard fonds' and are still in progress were invited to share in the special occasion.

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Teachers receiving guidance in sustainability!



petition among the students of secondary schools. These students will be required to work in groups and answer investigative questions. Teachers will provide the necessary coaching.

Elmar's role in the project will be to help students find a way to make their school more energy sustainable, according to Freddy Vargas. He emphasized that sustainable will entail more than just energy, but that the project must also have an economic and social aspect to it.

In the presentation, Vargas also explored the benefits and possibilities of solar panels. With solar panels, you generate your own electricity, which you can supply Elmar through your grid system and your meter at home. A monthly bill of 0



Florins is very possible and you can even get money back. Vargas gave the group some concrete examples of how this can be accomplished.

According to Vargas, Elmar can provide schools with solar panels, where stu-

dents can use this to do all sorts of measurements and calculations...resulting in knowledge and savings together.

The teachers were extremely interested and had many questions. It was obvious that these educators were

not only interested in the information to transmit to their students, but also for their own energy consumption. Freddy Vargas applauded and welcomed this. In his words...."everything we do to make Aruba more sustainable is one more step ahead."

A group of 20 teachers from different secondary schools have received extensive explanation regarding sustainable consumption and on generating sustainable energy.

These teachers are part of the Green S' Cool! project, which is the vision of former astronaut Professor Wubbo Ockels.

Elmar made their facilities available for the presentation conducted together with their adviser on energy management, Freddy Vargas. The information received by the teachers is intended to help them support students in designing a project for their schools to make these more sustainable and energy efficient and to make students more aware of their energy consumption.

The school program consists of, among others, a com-

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WEDNESDAY

National celebrations come to a close with an impassioned address by PM Mike Eman

Continued from pg 1



Monday morning, he extended this concept to the leaders of

preceding generations, who persisted in their goal of seeing Aruba to self-determination and an independent entity within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He also exhorted all those listening to appreciate the "Bon Trabao" of those who take their "comprimiso" or commitment to Aruba to heart everyday. He applauded island teachers, for guiding and educating new generations, policemen working 24 hours a day to keep the island secure, and in particular, those in the front lines of Aruba's tourism indus-

try, guaranteeing the continence of this pillar of the island's economy.

Prior to the Prime Minister taking the stage, Mistress of Ceremonies Cherryldine Mulder commented that Aruba's National Day is one on which islanders should reflect on what they expect from their country, along with what they are prepared to do, and how committed they are to contributing to its well being and advancement.

PM Eman continued this thought in his closing, stating we should emulate the sacrifice of those past statesmen, Jan "Henny" Eman, "Shon A" Albert Eman, "Juancho" Irausquin and Betico Croes, and their humility, in realizing that for the pride of all and development of Aruba, we must all work together. This entails working not only with fellow Arubans, but with cooperation with Holland and "our sister islands in the Caribbean."

By Rosalie Klein



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'Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds' celebrate...

Continued from page 2

In addition to the international Piano festival, there are several other projects such as the Art Biennale, Bon Nochi Drum, Dushi, Atelier's, among the projects that excelled in 2012, which were recipients of subsidy from the 'Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds.' They also paid for different researches i.e. for Parke National Arikok, Aruba Birdlife and different other projects of which they are very proud. They are happy to see how these projects developed and how well the subsidy is being used, according to Alice Van Romondt.

During the special event, a book was presented to Governor Fredis Refunjol and Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar. This book was part of the 'Rosea Nobo' exhibition, a pre-exposition for the Art Biennale. Various artists participated making it something new and unique for Aruba. That exposition was held at 4 different locations across the island.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pope vows to 'embrace poorest' at grand inauguration

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis donned the symbols of papal power and vowed to embrace the "poorest" of humanity yesterday at a grand inauguration in the Vatican as leader of a troubled Roman Catholic Church.

Some 200,000 pilgrims cheered Latin America's first pope in St Peter's Square, as Francis promised a "lowly, concrete and faithful" papacy.

The pope said he would aim to "embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important".

The 76-year-old head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics has faced immediate calls to reform the Vatican bureaucracy and take action against the ongoing scourge of child sex abuse by priests.

The Argentine pope, who

became a voice for the poor during his homeland's devastating economic crisis, has indicated he will be a strong advocate for the dispossessed suffering under deep austerity cuts in Europe.

His exhortation to world leaders to protect "God's creation" was seen by Vatican watchers as a subtle reference to the Church's anti-abortion stance.

Among the delegations from world religions there was also Bartholomew I, the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople.

It was the first time a patriarch of Constantinople, spiritual leader of the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians, had attended an inauguration since 1054 when the eastern and western halves of Christendom split.



ASUNCIÓN: AFP photo shows Rogelio Goiburú, whose father went missing in 1978, talking on the phone next to a human skull on the premises of the Specialized Police Group headquarters in the outskirts of Asunción on March 19, 2013. The human remains are believed to have been buried in the 1970's, during the dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner (1954-1989), in which hundreds went missing. Stroessner, a military leader who became president of Paraguay after leading an army coup in 1954, is one of Latin America's longest-serving rulers. He was overthrown in 1989.

Wanted cousin of Libya's Kadhafi arrested in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian police yesterday arrested Moamer Kadhafi's cousin Ahmed Qaddafi al-Dam, wanted by Tripoli for his role in the regime of the slain Libyan strongman, Egyptian officials said.

Egypt's prosecutor general ordered Qaddafi al-Dam's detention for 30 days pending investigation into "several charges," a security official said.

Qaddafi al-Dam surrendered hours after his bodyguards traded fire with policemen who tried to enter his apartment, an aide said. Police then escorted Kadhafi's former special envoy to the public prosecutor's office.

In Tripoli, the Libyan prosecutor's spokesman Taha Baara told AFP that Libya had issued an international arrest warrant for Qaddafi al-Dam for "forging documents".

Two other figures, former Libyan ambassador Ali Maria and Mohammed Ibrahim, the brother of senior Kadhafi-era Libyan official Ahmed Ibra-



him, were also arrested in Cairo for "financial crimes," Baara said.

"The extradition of the three accused will take some time. Their file has to be examined by the Egyptian justice first," he said. "Their arrest is only the first step. There are positive signs from Egypt's judicial authorities."

Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan told a news conference in Tripoli that Qaddafi al-Dam and former Kadhafi media chief Ali al-Kilani were among "several elements of the old regime" arrested in

Cairo.

Zeidan urged Egyptian authorities to "step up the extradition procedure" and deport them to Libya where they are wanted for "hostile acts" against the uprising that toppled Kadhafi's regime.

He also pledged a fair trial for the suspects.

Abdel Hamid al-Safi, an official at the Libyan embassy in Cairo, said the arrests were part of a "plan by the Libyan authorities in coordination with Egyptian authorities."

It was not immediately clear whether Qaddafi al-Dam, whose mother was Egyptian, carried Egyptian nationality, which could complicate his transfer to Libya to stand trial.

A Libyan embassy official said he was certain Qaddafi al-Dam was not an Egyptian citizen before the 2011 uprising in which Kadhafi was toppled and killed.

But his nephew said he carried an Egyptian national identity card.

Brazil landslides claim at least 24 lives, 18 injured

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - At least 24 people were killed by landslides spawned by heavy rains in a mountainous area of the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, authorities said yesterday.

Another 18 people have been injured and 1,466 were forced to leave their homes or were left homeless following the heavy downpour that began late Sunday in and around Petropolis, located 68 kilometers (42 miles) north of Rio de Janeiro, officials said.

The bodies of two boys and one girl who had been unaccounted for were found yesterday in a stream, firefighters said. Earlier, a local official said two rescue workers were among the dead.

Nearly 250 soldiers and Civil Defense officials have been mobilized to assist residents of the area where 21 districts are either under water or hit by landslides, according to an official statement.

Up to 390 millimeters (15 inches) of rain fell in some Petropolis districts in the space of 24 hours, when only 270 millimeters were anticipated for all of March.

Rio state governor Sergio Cabral called on residents to leave high risk areas and to seek refuge in shelters provided by city authorities as the



Brazilian fire brigade rescuers look for victims following landslides caused by the heavy rains. (AFP)

heavy rain continued.

Petropolis Mayor Rubens Bomtempo urged residents to stay indoors and warned of the possibility of more landslides.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who attended yesterday's installment of Pope Francis in Rome, offered Cabral

federal help to deal with the impact of the deluge.

A civil defense statement said the heavy rain also affected other Rio state towns, including Angra dos Reis, Mangaratiba, Niteroi and Teresopolis.



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International News

Seven killed in Marine Corps training accident

WASHINGTON (AFP) - At least seven US troops were killed and several more wounded in an accident during a Marine Corps training exercise in Nevada, the military said Tuesday.

The cause of the incident was under investigation, officers said, without providing details. Earlier, Marine officers said that an explosion had occurred at a live-fire drill.

Initial reports indicated a 60-millimeter mortar bomb exploded in a tube as Marines were about to fire it.

The vast depot in the desert of western Nevada, which spans 147,00 acres (nearly 600 kilometers), includes more than 2,000 bunkers and its harsh terrain is used to train troops preparing to deploy to Afghanistan.

Major General Raymond Fox, the commander of the II Marine Expeditionary Force, expressed sorrow over the casualties.

The 2nd Marine Division is based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who was getting regular updates on the incident, expressed condolences and was "deeply saddened" by the mishap, spokesman George Little told reporters.

The site of the Nevada depot, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) southeast of Reno, was chosen for its remote location after a fatal accidental explosion at another depot in New Jersey in 1926.

Hawthorne served as the main staging area for ammunition during World War II and once employed about 5,600 people.

The depot is now run by a contractor and is used to renovate ammunition, prepare troops for desert combat and other training.



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Europol says drug trade is Europe's biggest problem

THE HAGUE (AFP) - An estimated 3,600 organised crime gangs are active in Europe, the continent's policing agency revealed on Tuesday, mainly trading in illegal drugs including supplying some 124 tonnes of cocaine annually.

Around 30 percent, or 1,080, of criminal groups were involved in drug trafficking to

the continent, but other crimes linked to the ongoing economic crisis and the Internet were also on the rise, Europol said.

Cannabis was the most popular drug in Europe with 23 million users smoking an estimated 1,300 tonnes of cannabis resin and 1,200 tonnes of herbal cannabis every year.

Cocaine remained second-

most popular, with an estimated four million users consuming 124 tonnes of powder every year, Europol said.

The 46-page report -- which Europol said was its most detailed study ever into organised crime -- warned of a new breed of criminal gang on the rise, spurred on by the eurozone crisis and online activity.

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Health & Living

UN writes to Aquino over Philippines tobacco fair

MANILA (AFP) - The United Nations has expressed concern that the Philippines could encourage smoking by hosting one of the world's biggest tobacco trade shows, a health official said Tuesday.

UN agencies in the Philippines have written to President Benigno Aquino citing Manila's treaty pledge to ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, World Health Organisation senior health adviser Eigil Sorensen said.

The ProTobEx Asia show, described on its website as featuring the latest innova-

tions in processing, cigarette making and packaging, will be held at an indoor exhibition hall in the Pasay district of Manila from March 20-22.

He praised the steps being taken by the Philippine government to curb tobacco use but said more needs to be done.

Sorensen noted that it was the second straight year that the Philippines was hosting the annual tobacco fair, which the WHO says gathers some of the world's biggest tobacco manufacturers and advertisers.

Sorensen took note of the significant reduction in the

number of Filipino youth smokers, to one in 10 in 2011 compared to two in 10 four years earlier.

Last year the legislature passed a new law substantially raising tobacco taxes to help finance the government's health care programme.

However, Sorensen said 14 million Filipinos out of the nearly 100 million population smoked daily, leading to 10 deaths by the hour from tobacco-related diseases.

Organisers said the fair is not open to the general public or media.

NY mayor seeks to bring curtain down on cigarettes

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg unveiled legislation Monday to force shopkeepers to cover cigarettes with a curtain or use some other method to keep tobacco out of view.

The bill, which needs approval in the City Council, would make New York the first US city to adopt such a measure and is the latest initiative in Bloomberg's war on smoking and other unhealthy habits.

The billionaire former smoker said keeping cigarettes hidden would help reduce smoking rates among youngsters who could be tempted to buy a pack along with the sweets and other goodies often arrayed nearby.

"New York City has dramatically lowered our smoking rate, but even one new smoker

is one too many -- especially when it's a young person," Bloomberg said.

Under the legislation, sellers would have to tuck away cigarettes except during restocking or sales to customers.

The mayor has previously banned smoking in restaurants and bars, and more recently in parks and on beaches. He has also instituted a highly visible grading system for hygiene in all city restaurants and cafes.

But Bloomberg, who is nearing the end of his third and final term in office, suffered a setback last week when a judge blocked his imposition of a ban on giant soft drink portions.

In a speech in February, Bloomberg raised the prospect of another eye-catching crusade: outlawing Styrofoam cups and plates from food outlets.

'Brazilian' could be pubic enemy No. 1

PARIS (AFP) - A trend for shaving, clipping or waxing pubic hair may encourage the spread of a skin virus, French doctors suggested.

In a letter to a specialist journal, dermatologists in Nice said that over the past decade they had noted a rise in cases of a so-called poxvirus called Molluscum contagiosum, or MCV.

MCV causes painless, pearl-like nodules on the skin that usually disappear after a few months among people of normal health. It is sometimes seen on the face, arms and hands, but can spread through scratching or sexual contact.

The doctors reported on the case of 30 patients who over 14 months were treated at a private dermatology clinic in Nice for sexually-transmitted MCV.

Six of them were women and the rest were men; their average age was 29.

All but three of the patients had used pubic hair removal, with 70 percent using shaving.

All had MCV nodules on the pubis, abdomen or legs, while 10 also had other conditions such as genital warts, bacterial skin infection or ingrown hairs.

Hair removal may cause "microtraumas" to the surface of the skin, facilitating infection by the virus and other "minor" sexually transmitted infections, the doctors theorise.

The risk appears to be higher for shaving, but does not apply to laser treatment for hair removal.

"The reasons for choosing genital hair removal remain unclear but may be linked with Internet-based pornography."



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Britain gives green light to new nuclear plant

LONDON (AFP) - Britain gave the go-ahead on Tuesday for the first of a planned new generation of nuclear power plants.

Energy minister Ed Davey told parliament he was granting planning consent for French energy giant EDF to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset, southwest England.

The proposed £14 billion (\$21.1 billion, 16.2 billion euros) power station will be capable of producing seven percent of Britain's electricity, enough to power five million homes, EDF has said.

Davey said affordable nuclear power would play a "crucial role" in ensuring secure, diverse supplies of energy in Britain and decarbonising the electricity sector and the economy.

EDF is still in negotiations with the government over what it can charge for electricity produced by the plant, known as the "strike" price.

Hinkley Point, to be operated by EDF subsidiary NNB Generation, will be the first new nuclear power plant in Britain since Sizewell B, which started generating electricity in 1995.

It is estimated the project will create between 20,000 and 25,000 jobs while it is being built and 900 permanent jobs once it goes into operation.

The announcement was welcomed by British industry, but environmental groups reacted angrily to the news.

They raised concerns that the government will agree to an inflated strike price in order to get the nuclear plant built,

and over the issue of nuclear waste.

Greenpeace executive director John Sauven said Hinkley Point failed the test on economic, consumer and environmental grounds.

"It will lock a generation of consumers into higher energy bills, via a strike price that's expected to be double the current price of electricity, and it will distort energy policy by displacing newer, cleaner, cheaper technologies," he said.

"With companies now saying the price of offshore wind will drop so much it will be on par with nuclear by 2020, there is no rationale for allowing Hinkley C to proceed."

While Britain is among European nations pursuing nuclear power, Germany has said it will phase out its nuclear plants by 2022.



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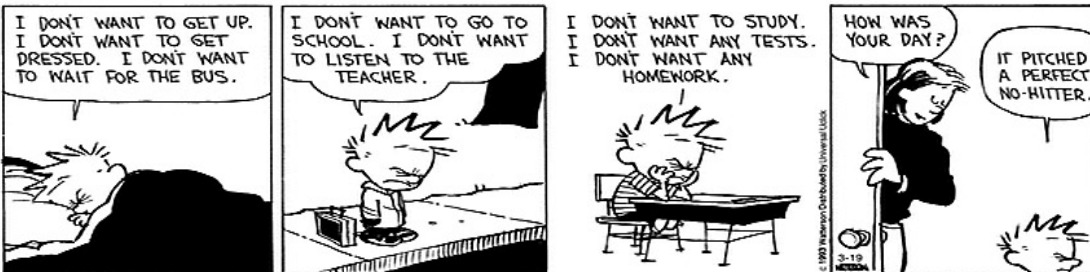
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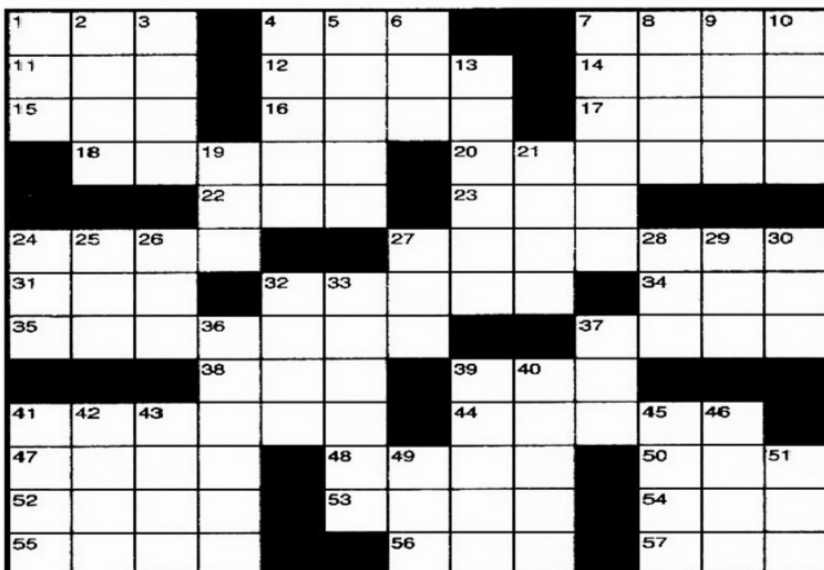
ACROSS

1. Military mail abbr.
4. One of Detroit's Big Three
7. Rooster's headpiece
11. Nero's 54
12. TV host Kelly
14. Jewelry stone
15. Buy a pig ____ poke (2 wds.)
16. Eur. language
17. Dreidel stakes
18. Butterfingers
20. Movie festival site
22. 23rd Greek letter
23. "...man ____ mouse?" (2 wds.)
24. Connecting words
27. Dispossessed
31. Gehrig of the Yankees
32. Cobblers' stock
34. Possess
35. Essential food category
37. Draft status (hyph.)
38. ____ room
39. Health resort
41. Get under way

44. Moses' brother
47. Praise
48. Electrical units
50. Gawker's comment
52. Decoy
53. Novak and Basinger
54. Naval officer (abbr.)
55. Elevations (abbr.)
56. "Peeper"
57. Garden wetness

DOWN

1. "The Greatest"
2. Lipstick shade
3. Face shape
4. Hominy concoction
5. Actress Gaynor
6. Book balancer (abbr.)
7. Remy Martin, for one
8. "____ sesame!"
9. Masculine
10. Lunchtime favorites
13. Nook
19. Delivery svc.
21. Onassis et al.
24. Yodeler's location
25. Neither's pal
26. Simon and Garfunkel, once
27. Long time
28. Freight weight
29. Flock female
30. Heredity inits.
32. Prophet
33. "Wild Bill" ____
36. Barbers
37. Rowboat accessory
39. Slugger Sosa
40. Non-current
41. "____ Enchanted" (2004 film)
42. Manhandle
43. Actor Reynolds
45. Had a debt
46. ____ too pleased
49. Hasten
51. Opp. of ENE



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Sudoku

		8	7		5		4	
	7				4	8		1
6					1			
8				7		5	1	
5								9
	4	6		3				8
			9					5
4		9	8				7	
	6		1		7	9		

SOLUTION

8	6	4	1	5	9	7	3	2
7	1	9	5	8	6	3	2	4
5	9	1	7	6	1	8	4	3
8	7	6	5	9	1	2	3	4
6	5	9	8	1	7	2	3	4
1	5	7	9	8	6	3	4	2
4	6	1	8	2	7	5	9	3
1	5	8	7	9	1	2	4	6
9	7	2	5	6	4	8	1	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Angry Cyprus MPs rail against EU 'blackmail'

NICOSIA (AFP) - Furious MPs took turns in parliament Tuesday to rail against the harsh terms of a bailout aimed at saving Cyprus from bankruptcy, decrying the eurozone "blackmail" as the deal hammered out at the weekend appeared to be unravelling.

"The bill has been rejected," house speaker Yiannakis Omirou said, as thousands of protesters who had demanded the house spurn the onerous measures exploded in joy outside the parliament building in Nicosia.

Omirou gave a breakdown of 36 votes against, 19 abstentions and none in favour.

Media reports said the government would now try to renegotiate the terms of the deal with the troika -- the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

It would at the same time seek other ways of making up a 5.8 billion-euro (\$7.47 billion) shortfall, with a bond issue, bank restructure and trying to secure more Russian investments among the options.

Omirou, of the socialist Edek party, had earlier told deputies, "There can only be one answer: no to blackmail."

"Our demand must be that this deal must be renegotiated. If we pass this tax there will be no foreign investor who will keep their money here," he warned.

Outside the parliament, equally angry crowds called for a "No" vote and held up signs warning that other financially crippled European nations like Italy and Spain could be next.

Under the 10-billion-euro (\$13 billion) deal sealed with eurozone partners on Saturday, a controversial levy of at least 6.75 percent was to be slapped on all bank deposits across the island.

The parliamentary finance committee, in a bid to make the package more palatable, Tuesday dropped the tax on

bank savings below 20,000 euros, while retaining at 6.75 percent the levy on deposits of 20,000-100,000 euros and at 9.9 percent for amounts above 100,000 euros.

The measure was not enough to convince lawmakers, with the 19 members of President Nicos Anastasiades's Disy party abstaining and other MPs voting outright against the measure.

Disy coalition partner Marinos Garoyian of Diko party had during the debate urged the rescue package be "rejected".

Rejection of the tax leaves Cyprus with a shortfall of 5.8 billion euros in funds it needs to dig itself out of crippling debt.

Central Bank chief Panicos Demetriades had earlier warned that unless the government managed to raise the shortfall, "it will be considered in breach of the (eurozone bailout) agreement".

Fearing a run on accounts, Cyprus has shut its banks until at least Thursday, with the island's stock exchange closed for the same period. Given the latest developments, there was no certainty the institutions would open this week at all.

With no end in sight to the crisis, Europe's main stock markets suffered further losses and the euro slid on Tuesday.

London's FTSE 100 index of leading companies dipped 0.26 percent, while in Frankfurt the DAX 30 shed 0.79 percent.

In foreign exchange activity, the European single currency slid to \$1.2873, from \$1.2957 in New York late on Monday, to hit its lowest level since November 22.

The president had even before the session began called an emergency meeting of party leaders for today morning to "examine alternative plans to address the situation that may arise following developments determined by the parliamentary vote".

British military plane takes 1 mln euros to Cyprus

LONDON (AFP) - Britain sent a Royal Air Force plane to crisis-hit Cyprus on Tuesday carrying one million euros (\$1.3 million) in emergency loans for British military personnel, the defence ministry said.

The cash cargo flight was a "contingency" plan in case banks in Cyprus stopped giving out money as the island deals with the fallout from a controversial eurozone bailout deal, a spokesman said.

"An RAF flight left for Cyprus this afternoon with one million euros on board as a contingency measure to provide military personnel and their families with emergency loans," the spokesman said in a statement to AFP.

"The MoD is proactively approaching personnel to ask if they want their March, and future months' salaries paid into UK bank accounts, rather than Cypriot accounts."

The British government reaffirmed earlier Tuesday that it would fully refund any military or government personnel whose Cyprus bank accounts were subject to an EU levy that was part of the bailout deal.

"We're determined to do everything we can to minimise the impact of the Cyprus banking crisis on our people," the spokesman added.

Britain does not use the euro, having stuck with the pound as its national currency.

Around 3,000 British troops are based at two military bases in Cyprus, which are used by Britain as a strategic foothold in the Mediterranean, with around 500 civilian personnel.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

C	R	I	B	M	L	B	B	E	E	P
H	E	R	A	A	O	L	E	A	S	E
I	N	O	N	O	N	O	S	U	E	T
T	O	N	I	C	G	O	B	I		
	S	H	E		M	O	D	E	S	T
A	T	H	E	N	A	B	E	L	L	E
I	R	E	D	E	G	E	D	L	I	E
S	T	A	I	R	E	L	O	P	E	D
M	Y	S	T	I	C	F	L	U		
	S	O	L	D		E	L	B	O	W
R	I	P	E		I	O	N	L	O	D
O	R	A	L		N	U	B	E	N	I
C	A	L	F		T	R	A	D	E	E



NICOSIA (AFP) - A Cypriot woman shouts slogans as she holds a placard during a protest against an EU bailout deal outside the parliament in Nicosia on March 19, 2013. The party of Cyprus' President Nicos Anastasiades will abstain from taking part in a parliamentary vote on an EU bailout, that slaps a levy on all Cypriot bank savings, a party member said.

Iceland to pursue bankers for 2008 collapse: reports

REYKJAVIK (AFP) - Iceland's authorities are preparing to charge former top bankers for causing the nation's financial system to collapse in 2008, local media reported.

The country's prosecutor will announce in the coming days charges against over a dozen former top bankers, public radio and television RUV and the daily Frettablaðið reported.

Iceland's banks went on an international buying binge in the early 2000s fuelled by cheap foreign loans.

But the collapse of the US investment bank Lehman Brothers in September 2008 froze credit markets and Iceland's banks quickly collapsed, plunging the island's economy into a deep recession.

Prosecutors will pursue six former executives of Landsbanki for manipulating the bank's share price by lending funds to investors on condition they buy shares, the reports said.

Nine former executives of Kaupthing will also face charges for various schemes to manipulate the share price of what was then the nation's top bank.

The then chief executives of both banks will be among those charged, according to the reports.

Iceland's then prime minister Geir Haarde was last year found guilty of one minor

charge but cleared of serious accusations relating to his handling of the banking collapse.

Haarde has argued that the government's choice to let the banks fail and repudiate their foreign debts saved the country from bankruptcy.

US stocks hold up despite Cyprus crisis

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks closed mixed Tuesday, holding on as the Cyprus financial crisis threatened to ignite more turmoil across the European financial system.

Stocks actually rebounded from early losses after the Cyprus parliament rejected the controversial bank deposit tax that is key to the country's financial rescue, putting the entire EU-IMF bailout plan into question.

At the close the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 3.76 points (0.03 percent) at 14,455.82.

The broad-based S&P 500 fell 3.76 (0.24 percent) to 1,548.34, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index lost 8.49 points (0.26 percent) at 3,229.10.

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Rembrandt self-portrait confirmed in Britain



LONDON (AFP) - A painting hanging in a British stately home has been confirmed as a self-portrait by Rembrandt worth tens of millions of dollars, the National Trust heritage body announced.

The picture, which has been at Buckland Abbey in Devon, southwest England, since it was donated to the trust in 2010, was thought for decades to be a portrait by one of the Dutch Master's pupils.

But the world's leading Rembrandt expert has now reattributed it to the 17th-century master himself.

It has been given a new value of £20 million (\$30 million, 23 million euros) -- though the National Trust said it can never be sold as the organisation holds

items on behalf of the nation forever.

"These latest investigations are incredibly exciting and important," said David Taylor, the trust's curator of paintings and sculpture. "Conservation work and technical analysis being undertaken over the winter will give us further confirmation regarding the picture's authorship."

The self-portrait, dated 1635, shows the artist aged 29 wearing a cap with large white ostrich feathers.

The painting was donated to the National Trust by the widow of a wealthy property developer in her estate.

The painting will hang at the 700-year-old abbey -- which was formerly the home of 16th-century explorer Francis Drake -- for another eight months before being sent for cleaning and further examination.

When it first arrived at the abbey it was kept in storage for 18 months as there was nowhere to hang it, but it now becomes one of the National Trust's most important paintings.

"It's amazing to think we might've had an actual Rembrandt hanging here on the walls at Buckland Abbey for the past couple of years," said Jez McDermott, the abbey's property manager. "Many of our visitors will have just passed by it, in what is sure to be a real contrast to the attention it is now going to receive."

'Die Hard' director faces jail within weeks: report

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Die Hard" director John McTiernan has until April 3 to surrender himself to serve a prison term handed down for lying to FBI agents, according to the Hollywood Reporter on Monday.

McTiernan, whose films also include "The Hunt for Red October" and "The Thomas Crown Affair," was sentenced to 12 months in jail and fined \$100,000 in 2010 for making false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

But he stayed free pending appeals in the case, which stems from his hiring a private investigator to illegally wire-tap a producer. The US Supreme Court has refused to hear his case, leaving him with the deadline to surrender.

In an initial 2006 guilty plea, McTiernan admitted hiring private investigator Anthony Pellicano to wiretap film producer Charles Roven after they worked on the 2002 "Rollerball," and then lying to FBI agents about it.

Shortly afterwards he sought to reverse his plea, claiming he was drunk and jet-lagged, but he was sentenced to four months in jail and fined \$100,000. In 2008, an appeal court allowed his not guilty plea and quashed the fine.

But in 2009 he was indicted by a federal grand jury on new charges, for which he was sentenced in October 2010.

McTiernan made the first "Die Hard" film in 1988 and the third, "Die Hard: With a Vengeance," in 1995, but not 1990's "Die Hard 2: Die Harder," "Live Free or Die Hard" in 2007 or this year's "A Good Day to Die Hard."

Pellicano, who was convicted of 78 felonies at two separate trials in 2008, is currently serving a 15-year sentence in federal prison.

Lindsay Lohan gets 90 days in rehab in US plea deal



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Troubled US actress Lindsay Lohan was sentenced Monday to 90 days in a locked rehab facility, as part of a plea deal announced as her trial for allegedly lying to police was set to begin.

The 26-year-old starlet, who rushed into the courtroom nearly one hour behind schedule, was also sentenced to two years' probation after pleading no contest to misdemeanor charges stemming from the car crash in Santa Monica in June 2012.

Lohan will have to carry out 30 days of community labor -- which she can do in New York, where she currently lives -- and undergo 18 months of psychotherapy. The deal also sus-

pends a 180-day jail sentence for a separate probation violation.

The judge told Lohan's lawyers that the actress will also "have to prove she doesn't have any alcohol or drugs in her system and not to use, possess any narcotics ... or restricted drugs or associated paraphernalia."

The current round of trouble is related to the June crash when the Porsche she was driving hit a truck on the Pacific Coast Highway.

Lohan showed up late because she missed her late Sunday flight from New York to Los Angeles, but later traveled aboard a private jet provided by Mr. Pink Beverages, a company that sells energy drinks, Lohan wrote in a message on Twitter.

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"—"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena—"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Tel: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Sport

Football: Premier League will accept winter World Cup - Richards

LONDON (AFP) - Outgoing English Premier League chairman Dave Richards believes his organisation will have to drop its resistance to the idea of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar being played in the European winter.

English football is unusual among the continent's major leagues in having no winter break and many Premier League officials are determined nothing will happen to disrupt the lucrative competition from running as normal.

But there is growing global momentum behind the idea the intense heat in Qatar during June and July, when a World Cup might usually be

expected to be staged, risks the health of both players and fans exposed to temperatures of 50C and so makes a switch to a 'winter' date all the more inevitable.

Richards, speaking to Sky Sports News at the Securing Sport conference in Qatar, said: "I think they will play (the World Cup) at a time that is proper for football but they will have to speak to the leagues in Europe.

"They will have to agree proper times when we can start and finish.

"At the moment it has a tremendous amount of implications for Europe. For us, at this minute, the answer is no. "But, if we take a proper view, we have to find a way to have a winter spell where we don't play and I think common sense will prevail.

"We've got FIFA now saying that medical people are saying that they can't play in



Qatar in the summer because of the heat, which is probably right.

"I think over the next few years, things will change and they will come to a compromise."

However, Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore has always been adamantly against such a switch and a Premier League spokesman said Tuesday their position had not altered.

"The Premier League's

view remains unchanged. We are opposed to the concept of a winter World Cup for very obvious practical reasons that would impact on all of European domestic football."

Earlier this month Jerome Valcke, general secretary of FIFA, became the first official from football's world governing body to accept there was a case for moving the World Cup.

"The FIFA ExCo (executive committee) has the power to make decisions and if at the FIFA ExCo this issue starts to be a real point for discussion then why not, and then again maybe the FIFA ExCo will say based on med-

ical reports or whatever we really have to look at playing the World Cup not in summer, but in winter," he said.

"I am not saying that the case is closed, but what I'm saying is as long as we have not fixed the international calendar all alternatives are open."

UEFA president Michel Platini has reiterated his call to move the Qatar tournament to winter and Valcke said the fact the international calendar had not been fixed beyond 2018 made moving the 2022 finals possible.

"Qatar has to tell us, 'we want to move the World Cup from summer to winter'," Valcke said.

"I can tell you there is no working group within FIFA thinking and working on what it means to move the World Cup from summer to winter for the time being.

"The international calendar has been agreed for 2015-2018, meaning that we kept open all potential for period 2019 to 2022. We have time."

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BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - : Argentina's forward Lionel Messi (C) poses for pictures with supporters during a training session in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires on March 19, 2013 ahead of the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup South American qualifier football match against Venezuela on March 22.

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NBA: Bynum to undergo surgery on both knees

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Philadelphia 76ers center Andrew Bynum will undergo surgery on both knees on Tuesday, meaning he will miss the entire NBA season due to injury, the team announced on Monday.

Bynum, a former All-Star with the Los Angeles Lakers who was traded last August in a four-team deal that sent Dwight Howard from Orlando to the Lakers, might never play for the 76ers. He will become a free agent after this season.

Bynum, 25, will have objects removed from within the knees in order to alleviate pain

and swelling that has persisted since last season.

Last year, Bynum went to Germany for treatment on his knees. He underwent a non-surgical procedure, Orthokine therapy, which uses proteins derived from the patient's own blood.

In September, Bynum was diagnosed with a bone bruise of the right knee and he hurt his left knee in November while bowling.

Bynum missed only six games last season, averaging career highs of 18.7 points and 11.8 rebounds, but he has played a full 82-game season only once in his seven-year career after being taken 10th overall by the Lakers in the 2005 NBA Draft.

The 76ers made the playoffs in four of the past five seasons but were last in the Atlantic Division this year at 25-40.

Baseball: Matsuzaka will not make Indians debut lineup

PHOENIX (AFP) - Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka was told by the Cleveland Indians on Monday that he will not be on the roster for the team's Major League Baseball season opener on April 2 at Toronto.

The 32-year-old right-hander, who was the Most Valuable Player in the 2006 and 2009 World Baseball Classics for two-time champions Japan, signed a minor-league contract with the club earlier this year.

In four pre-season games, Matsuzaka has allowed only two runs on 10 hits over eight innings. He could remain with the organization but would have to accept an assignment to a developmental-league team.

Tennis: Pennetta puts herself in Serena's path at Miami

MIAMI (AFP) - Italy's Flavia Pennetta booked herself a second round clash with World No. 1 Serena Williams at the WTA and ATP Masters Miami hardcourt event after a 6-4, 6-1 first-round victory Tuesday over Swede Johanna Larsson.

Pennetta, ranked 103rd, will meet Williams on Thursday in a second-round match at the \$8.5 million event, which awarded byes to all 32 seeded players in both the men's and women's draws.

The third-round foe for Williams if she beats Pennetta will be either 31st seed Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium or Japan's Ayumi Morita, who outlasted Britain's Heather Watson 1-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Williams will try to become the first six-time winner at Miami in her first event since



reaching the Dubai final to reclaim the top ranking while World No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia tries to claim his fourth Miami crown.

Williams, a 15-time Grand Slam singles champion, won at Miami in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2008. The 31-year-old American, who also reached the final in 1999 and 2009, is the reigning US Open, Wimbledon and Olympic champion.

Defending champion and fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland will open against Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei, who downed Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko 6-4, 7-6 (17/15).

Chinese fifth seed Li Na learned she will open against Dutch rival Kiki Bertens, who won the first seven games before Georgia's Anna Tatishvili retired from their match.

China's Peng Shuai downed Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson 6-3, 6-2, and will face Czech seventh seed Petra Kvitova in the second round.

France's Kristina Mladenovic defeated Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak 7-5, 6-2, to book a second-round date with Slovakian 13th seed Dominika Cibulkova.

Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu edged New Zealand's Marina Erakovic 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 and will next face US 25th seed Varvara Lepchenko.

NBA: LeBron ..

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The 28-year-old forward spent his first seven NBA seasons with the Cavaliers just down the road from Akron, where he was a high school phenomenon whose prep games attracted national attention.

But in that span, the Cavaliers struggled in the playoffs. In 2006, they won their first playoff series since 1993 but lost in the second round. In 2007, they reached the NBA Finals but were swept by San Antonio.

Second-round ousters followed in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and after the last of those, James made a live announcement in a made-for-television special called "The Decision" that he would leave for Miami.

Teaming with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, James openly boasted about bringing multiple championships to Miami before he had won even one, a detail he took care of with a victory over Oklahoma City in last year's NBA Finals after Miami lost the 2011 final to Dallas.

This season, the Heat own the best record in the NBA at 52-14 thanks to their epic win streak, which survived a tough test Monday at Boston when James hit the winning basket in the final seconds of a 105-103 triumph.

Earlier in the game, James made a spectacular slam dunk over Boston's Jason Terry, a one-handed jam into the hoop destined to make YouTube sizzle that ended with Terry sprawled on the floor and James glaring at his fallen foe.

James is averaging 26.7 points, 8.2 rebounds and 7.2 assists for the Heat, who last tasted defeat on February 1 at Indiana.

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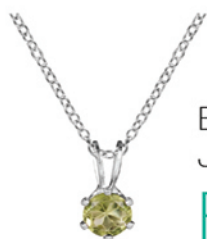
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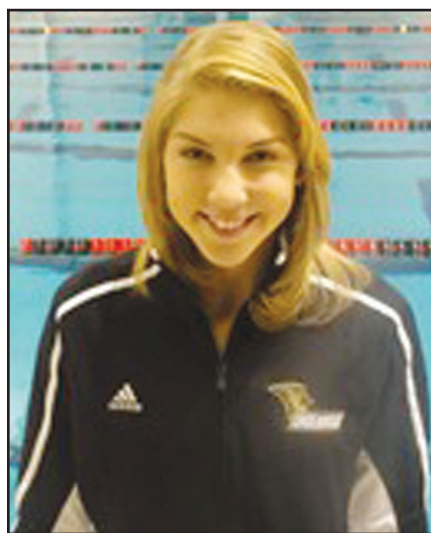
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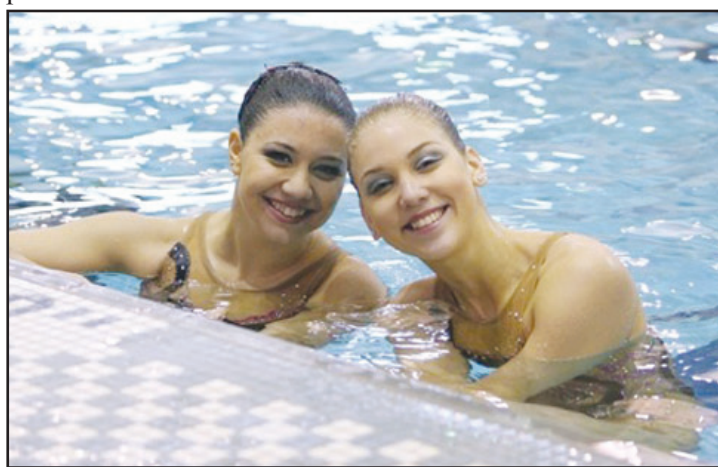
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Aruba's Anouk Eman to compete for Lindenwood University



Since the start of the competitions in January Anouk competed in 3 routines for her school, duet, trio and team. In all the routines in which Anouk competed she won or finished in 2nd place. Last week Anouk represented her school at the USA Synchro North Regional Championships at which the best athletes of the region US North participates. Anouk together with her duet partner

Reem Abdalazem got silver. Anouk and Reem has been partners since 2011.



--Recently, Aruba got the good news that Aruban athlete Anouk Eman will be competing for Lindenwood University at St. Charles, Missouri. Anouk who is a student and athlete in synchronized swimming at the university for 3 years already, has been reaping great results in the sport of synchronized swimming.

Anouk's school competition began in January and consists of various competitions against other schools. At the final of the season all the competing universities come together for the national championship called: US Collegiate Championships.

Coach Lori Eaton of Lindenwood University believes that Anouk and Reem are favorites for the Collegiate Championships after winning bronze last year. This competition will be at Palo Alto, California 21-23 March.

After California, Anouk's upcoming competition will be in April in Greensboro, North Carolina in the USA National Championships. This is the biggest school competition in the US in synchronized swimming.

The goal is for Anouk to represent Aruba in Barcelona during FINA's World Championships 2013 in July.

NBA: LeBron comes home with Heat on historic streak



LeBron James' vicious dunk that helped Miami Heat extend their win streak by beating Celtics

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AFP) - LeBron James is coming back to his home region to play against the Cleveland Cavaliers, the NBA team he spurned to join the Miami Heat, with his new teammates on a historic win streak.

The Heat risk their 23-game win streak, the second-longest in NBA history, on Wednesday at Cleveland in what will be James' first game in the arena where he was once a star since he won his first NBA title last June with the Heat.

Only the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who own the all-time record of 33 wins in a row, have had a longer NBA win streak than Miami's epic run in the 67-year history of the NBA.

"It's a special team," James said. "It's a special ride right now that we're on. I think the best thing about it is we're doing it together. We're doing it for one another and we just want to try to keep it going."

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